	Case 2:10-cv-00784-GW-RZ Document 1	Filed 02/0	3/2010 F	Page 1 of 14	
2	twolfson@ahdootwolfson.com AHDOOT & WOLFSON, APC 10850 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 370 Los Angeles, California 90024 Telephone: (310) 474-9111 Facsimile: (310) 474-8585 Attorneys for the Plaintiff,		01.E 01.	NOFEB -3 PM	
8	JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD				
9					
10	UNITED STATES	DISTRICT C	OURT		
11	CENTRAL DISTRI	CT OF CALII	FORNIA		
12				014	
13		CV10	070	GW	(RZx)
14	JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD,	CV10 CASE NO.	0/04	4 1	
15	Plaintiff,	COMPLAI			
16	VS.	JURY TRIA		D DEMAND FO	OR
17	TYLER PERRY, THE TYLER PERRY				
18	COMPANY, INC., TYLER PERRY STUDIOS, LLC, TURNER BRODCASTING SYSTEM,				
19	INC., TIME WARNER, INC., and DOES 1-10,				
20	Defendants.				
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		-1-		COM	PLAINT

Complaint against the Defendants:

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Nature of This Action

Plaintiff JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD ("Plaintiff") makes the following

- 1. This case involves the unauthorized use of Plaintiff's music and lyrics from the copyrighted work entitled "I Got Away," by Defendants without a license. The music and lyrics were synchronized and reduced to digital media, film and audio, which Defendants distributed as part of their work "Meet the Browns," an episodic television program broadcasted on the TBS cable television channel.
- 2. Plaintiff is the author and sole owner of the song "I Got Away," which is available on iTunes and through other distributors. Defendants misappropriated and repeatedly published the copyrighted music and the copyrighted lyrics of the song, "The Devil thought he had me but I got away," among others, by having the characters sing the music and lyrics in Episode Number 3 of "Meet the Browns," entitled "Meet the Dependents and the Divas."

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 3. This is an action for copyright infringement arising under the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. ("The Copyright Act"). This Court has exclusive subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1338(a) and 1331.
- Independently, the Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 4. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332 and 1338.

1400.

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The Parties

Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and

- 6. Plaintiff JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD is an individual and resident of the State of North Carolina.
- 7. Defendant THE TYLER PERRY COMPANY, INC. ("TPC") is a corporation incorporated in the State of Georgia, doing business in the State of California. Plaintiff is informed and believes that TPC is qualified to do business in the State of California. TPC has appropriated intellectual property belonging to the Plaintiff.
- 8. Defendant TYLER PERRY STUDIOS, LLC ("TP-LLC") is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Georgia, doing business in the State of California. TP-LLC has appropriated intellectual property belonging to the Plaintiff.
- 9. Defendant TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. a Delaware Corporation, ("TURNER BROADCASTING"), is doing business in the State of California. Plaintiff is informed and believes that TURNER BROADCASTING is qualified to do business in the State of California. TURNER BROADCASTING appropriated, published and distributed intellectual property belonging to the Plaintiff.
- 10. Defendant TIME WARNER, INC. a Delaware Corporation, ("TIME WARNER"), is doing business in the State of California. Plaintiff is informed and believes that TIME WARNER is qualified to do business in the State of California. TIME WARNER appropriated, published, and distributed intellectual property belonging to the Plaintiff.

- 11. Defendant TYLER PERRY is an individual. Plaintiff is informed and believes that TYLER PERRY is doing business in the State of California. TYLER PERRY appropriated, published and distributed intellectual property belonging to the Plaintiff.
- 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes that TPC, TP-LLC, and / or TYLER PERRY is / are the author of the infringing work "Meet the Browns," an episodic television program which has used and appropriated intellectual property of the Plaintiff.
- 13. Plaintiffs are unaware of the true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of defendants Does 1 through 10, inclusive, or any of them, and therefore sue these defendants, and each of them, by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint when the identities of these defendants are ascertained.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT OF LYRICS

- 14. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 13 as if fully set forth herein.
- 15. Plaintiff JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD is the author of the lyrics of the song "I Got Away," published and copy written in 2007 by Plaintiff.
- 16. Effective January 17, 2008, Plaintiff registered the lyrics of the song "I Got Away" with the Register of Copyrights. The Certificate of Registration bears the number Pau 3-406-236.
- 17. On or about January 14, 2009, Defendants began reproducing, performing, adapting and distributing the copyrighted material by incorporating an entire verse of the lyrics of Plaintiff's work (singing "The Devil thought he had me but I got away"), willfully and without a license, within their audiovisual work, in the episodic television program entitled "Meet the

Browns," Episode No. 3 entitled "Meet the Dependants and the Divas". Unless enjoined and restrained, Defendants' conduct threatens to further infringe Plaintiff's copyright interests.

- 18. At no time has Plaintiff authorized any of the Defendants to reproduce, adapt, perform, distribute or otherwise use the lyrics of the song "I Got Away."
- 19. Defendants willfully copied the lyrics of the song "I Got Away" when characters in Episode No. 3 of "Meet the Browns" sang the song.
- 20. Defendants failed to seek permission to use Plaintiff's work, and exploited same work and incorporated it in Defendants' Episode No. 3 of "Meet the Browns."
- 21. By reason of Defendants' infringement and threatened infringement, Plaintiff has sustained and will continue to sustain substantial injury, loss and damage to his ownership rights in the copyrighted work.
- 22. Further irreparable harm to Plaintiff is imminent as a result of Defendants' conduct, and Plaintiff is without an adequate remedy at law. Plaintiff is entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their officers, directors, agents, employees, representatives and all persons acting in concert with them from engaging in further such acts of copyright infringement.
- Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from all Defendants the damages sustained by Plaintiff as a result of Defendants' acts of copyright infringement. Plaintiff is at present unable to ascertain the full extent of the monetary damage he has suffered by reason of the Defendants' acts of copyright infringement, but Plaintiff are informed and believe, and on the basis of such information and belief allege, that Plaintiff has sustained such damage in amount exceeding \$100,000.
- 24. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from Defendants the gain, profits and advantages they have obtained as a result of their acts of copyright infringement. Plaintiff is at present unable to ascertain the full extent of the gains, profits and advantages defendant has

obtained by reason of its acts of copyright infringement, but Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on the basis of such information and belief alleges, that Defendants have obtained such gains, profits, and advantages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.

- 25. Plaintiff is entitled to compensation in the form of an implied license, statutory damages, actual damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees, as well as pre and post judgment interest for the infringement and wrongful use of the song's lyrics and music and infringement of Plaintiffs' ownership to the music and lyrics of the song.
- 26. Defendants' direct and willful acts have damaged Plaintiff, causing him harm in deliberate prejudice of his property rights.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT OF MUSIC

- 27. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates paragraphs 1 through 13 as if fully set forth herein.
- 28. Plaintiff JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD is the author of the music of the song "I Got Away," published and copy written in 2007 by Plaintiff.
- 29. Effective January 17, 2008, Plaintiff registered the music of the song "I Got Away" with the Register of Copyrights. The Certificate of Registration bears the number Pau 3-406-236.
- 30. On or about January 14, 2009, Defendants began reproducing, performing, adapting, and distributing the copyrighted material by incorporating the music of Plaintiff's work in Episode No. 3 of "Meet the Browns." Unless enjoined and restrained, Defendants' conduct threatens to further infringe Plaintiff's copyright interests.

- 31. At no time has Plaintiff authorized any of the Defendants to reproduce, adapt, perform, distribute or other wise use the music of the song "I Got Away."
- 32. Defendants willfully copied the music of the song "I Got Away" when characters in Episode No. 3 of "Meet the Browns" sang the song.
- 33. Defendants failed to seek permission to use Plaintiff's work, and exploited same work and incorporated it in Defendants' Episode No. 3 of "Meet the Browns."
- 34. By reason of Defendants' infringement and threatened infringement, Plaintiff has sustained and will continue to sustain substantial injury, loss and damage to their ownership rights in the copyrighted work.
- 35. Further irreparable harm to Plaintiff is imminent as a result of Defendants' conduct, and Plaintiff is without an adequate remedy at law. Plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their officers, directors, agents, employees, representatives and all persons acting in concert with them from engaging in further such acts of copyright infringement.
- 36. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from all Defendants the damages sustained by Plaintiff as a result of Defendants' acts of copyright infringement. Plaintiff is at present unable to ascertain the full extent of the monetary damage he has suffered by reason of the Defendants' acts of copyright infringement, but Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on the basis of such information and belief alleges, that Plaintiff has sustained such damage in amount exceeding \$100,000.
- 37. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from Defendants the gain, profits and advantages they have obtained as a result of their acts of copyright infringement. Plaintiff is at present unable to ascertain the full extent of the gains, profits and advantages defendant has obtained by reason of its acts of copyright infringement, but Plaintiff is informed and believes, and

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27 28 on the basis of such information and belief alleges, that Defendants have obtained such gains, profits, and advantages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.

- 38. Plaintiff is entitled to compensation in the form of an implied license, statutory damages, actual damages, punitive damages, attorneys' fees, as well as pre and post judgment interest for the infringement and wrongful use of the song's lyrics and music and infringement of Plaintiffs' ownership to the music and lyrics of the song.
- 39. Defendants' direct and willful acts have damaged Plaintiff, causing him harm in deliberate prejudice of his property rights.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

- A. For a temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining and restraining Defendants and all persons acting in concert with them from manufacturing, reproducing, distributing, adapting, displaying, advertising, promoting, offering for sale and/or selling, or performing any materials that are substantially similar to the copyrighted work, and to deliver to the Court for destruction or other reasonable disposition all such materials and means for producing same in Defendants' possession or control;
- B. For actual damages and Defendants; profits in an amount in excess of \$100,000 to be determined at trial, plus interest;
 - C. For an award of statutory damages;
 - D. For an award of exemplary and punitive damages:
- E. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with this action:

	Case 2:10	-cv-00784-GW-RZ	Document 1	Filed 02/03/2010	Page 9 of 14
1	F.	For pre-judgme	nt and post-judg	ment interest; and	
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3	G.	For such other a	and further relief	as the Court deems j	ust and proper.
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6	DATED:	February 3, 2010	AHDOO	OT & VOLFSON, APO	
7					
8			By Rob	pert Ahdoot orneys for Plaintiffs	
9			Atto	orneys for Plaintiffs	
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					COMPLAINT

case 2:10-cv-00784-GW-RZ Document 1 Filed 02/03/2010 Page 10 of 14 JURY DEMAND Plaintiffs respectfully request a jury trial on all issues triable thereby. DATED: February 3, 2010 AHDOOT & WOLFSON, APC By. Attorneys for Plaintiffs -10-COMPLAINT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to	District Judge George H.	Wu and the assigned	discovery
Magistrate Judge is Ralph Zarefsky.			

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV10- 784 GW (RZx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge					

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[X]	Western Division			
	312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8			
	Los Angeles, CA 90012			

[]	Southern Division
	411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053
	Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

Eastern Division
 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134
Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Case 2:10-cv-00784-GW-RZ Document 1 Filed 02/03/2010 Page 12 of 14 Robert Ahdoot (Bar No. 172098) Tina Wolfson (Bar No 174806) AHDOOT & WOLFSON, APC 10850 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 370 Los Angeles, California 90024 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Johnny Tyrone Stringfield UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Johnny Tyrone Stringfield CASE NUMBER $_{\text{PLAINTIFF(S)}} \left| \text{CV10} \right. \ 0784 \ \text{GW}$ Tyler Perry, The Tyler Perry Company, Inc., Tyler Perry Studios, LLC, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., **SUMMONS** Time Warner, Inc. and DOES 1-10, DEFENDANT(S). DEFENDANT(S): Tyler Perry, The Tyler Perry Company, Inc., Tyler Perry Studios, LLC, TO: Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., Time Warner, Inc. and DOES 1-10, A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within _____ days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached grouplaint amended complaint □ counterclaim □ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, Robert Ahdoot or Tina Wolfson, whose address is 10850 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 370, Los Angeles, California 90024. Tel: 310-474-9111 _____. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court. Clerk, U.S. District Court CHRISTOPHER POWERS Dated: ____ FEB - 3 2010 Deputy Clerk (Seal of the Court) [Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].

SUMMONS

CV-01A (12/07)

Case 2:10-cv-00784-GW-RZ Document 1 Filed 02/03/2010 Page 13 of 14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself □) JOHNNY TYRONE STRINGFIELD .			TYLER STUDIO	DEFENDANTS TYLER PERRY, THE TYLER PERRY COMPANY, INC. TYLER PERRY STUDIOS, LLC., TURNER BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., TIME WARNER, INC., and DOES 1-10					
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Adyourself, provide same.) AHDOOT & WOLFSON, 10850 Wilshire Blvd., Sui Los Angeles, California 90	te 370	you are representin	g Attorneys ((If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION				RINCIPAL PAR			s Only		
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■3 Federal Question (U.S.	(Plac	e an X in one box	c for plaintiff and o	ne for de DEF	fendant.)		PTF	DEF
	Government Not a Party		This State			Incorporated or I of Business in th	,	□ 4	□ 4
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	t → □ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citiz of Parties in Item III)		Another State	□ 2	□ 2	Incorporated and of Business in A		□ 5	□ 5
		Citizen or	Subject of a Fore	ign Country 🗆 3	□ 3	Foreign Nation		□6	□ 6
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in on	e box only.)								
□ 1 Original □ 2 Remove State Co	ed from 3 Remanded from ourt Appellate Court	☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened	☐ 5 Transferre	ed from another dis	trict (spe	Distr	rict Judg	eal to E e from istrate .	
V. REQUESTED IN COMPL.	AINT: JURY DEMAND: 19	Yes □ No (Check	'Yes' only if der	manded in complai	nt.)				
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C	.P. 23: ☐ Yes 👿 No		☐ MONEY D	EMANDED IN C	OMPLA	INT: § excess of	f\$100,000		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite	e the U.S. Civil Statute under whi	ch you are filing ar	id write a brief sta	atement of cause.	Do not cit	te jurisdictional st	atutes unless div	ersity.)	
VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Plac	e an X in one box only.)		··						
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□ 450 Commerce/ICC	□ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability		Truth in Lending		Habeas Corpus	Relatio		
Rates/etc.	☐ 150 Recovery of	☐ 320 Assault, L Slander	ibel & □ 380	Other Personal	□ 530		☐ 730 Labor/N	1gmt.	
☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced	Overpayment &	☐ 330 Fed. Empl	overs'	Property Damage	□ 535	Death Penalty	Reporti	•	
and Corrupt	Enforcement of Judgment	Liability	385	Property Damage	1 .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Disclos	ure Act	t
Organizations	☐ 151 Medicare Act	340 Marine	A CORA	Product Liability		Other Civil Rights	□ 740 Railway		r Act
☐ 480 Consumer Credit	☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	☐ 345 Marine Pro		Appeal 28 USC	□ 555	Prison Condition	Litigation		
☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV	Student Loan (Excl	Liability □ 350 Motor Veh		158	#RO	rfeiture//	□ 791 Empl. R	et. Inc.	
810 Selective Service	Veterans)	□ 355 Motor Vel		Withdrawal 28		ENALTY	Security		
☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange		Product Li	ability	USC 157		Agriculture	PROPERTA	RIGH	IIS.
□ 875 Customer Challenge 12	Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	☐ 360 Other Pers		VIL RIGHTS Voting		Other Food &	820 Copyrig	hts	
	☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits	Injury	l	Employment		Drug Drug Related	☐ 830 Patent ☐ 840 Tradem	ark	
	☐ 190 Other Contract	☐ 362 Personal II Med Malp	7 f - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	Housing/Acco-		Seizure of	SOCIAL S		TIVE A
□ 891 Agricultural Act	☐ 195 Contract Product	□ 365 Personal I	njury-	mmodations	1	Property 21 USC	□ 861 HIA (13	95ff)	
□ 892 Economic Stabilization Act	Liability	Product Li		Welfare		881	□ 862 Black L		
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	□ 210 Land Condemnation	Injury Proc Liability	1401	Disabilities - Employment		R.R. & Truck Airline Regs	(405(g) □ 864 SSID T		71
☐ 895 Freedom of Info. Act	□ 220 Foreclosure	MMIORATI	ON □ 446	American with		Occupational	□ 865 RSI (40		1
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Access to Justice	245 Tort Product Liability	☐ 463 Habeas Co Alien Deta		Other Civil			or Defe	,	
☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	290 All Other Real Property	465 Other Imm	I	Rights			□ 871 IRS-Th USC 76		ty 26
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				CV10		784			

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

CV-71 (05/08)

Case 2:10-cv-00784-GW-RZ Document 1 Filed 02/03/2010 Page 14 of 14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Ha If yes, list case number(s):	as this action been p	reviously filed in this court a	nd dismissed, remanded or closed? ☑ No □ Yes	
VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Hav If yes, list case number(s):	e any cases been pr	eviously filed in this court th	at are related to the present case? ♥ No □ Yes	
□ C.	Arise from the sam Call for determinat For other reasons w	e or closely related transaction ion of the same or substantia would entail substantial duplic	ons, happenings, or events; or Ily related or similar questions of law and fact; or cation of labor if heard by different judges; or t, <u>and</u> one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.	
IX. VENUE: (When completing the	e following information	tion, use an additional sheet i	f necessary.)	
(a) List the County in this District; Check here if the government, i	California County of the agencies or emplo	outside of this District; State oyees is a named plaintiff. If	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides. This box is checked, go to item (b)	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California, or Foreign Country	
			State of North Carolina	
(b) List the County in this District; Check here if the government, i	California County (outside of this District; State oyees is a named defendant.	If other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. If this box is checked, go to item (c).	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California, or Foreign Country	
County of Los Angeles			State of Georgia, State of Delaware	
(c) List the County in this District; Note: In land condemnation c	California County of ases, use the location	outside of this District; State	if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose. ved.	
County in this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California, or Foreign Country	
County of Los Angeles				
* Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernal Note: In land condemnation cases, us	rdino, Riverside, V	entura, Sanja Barbara, or i	San Luis Obispo Counties	
X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY ((OR PRO PER):		Date February 3, 2010	
or other papers as required by la-	w. This form, appro-	ved by the Judicial Conference	rmation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings see of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed ting the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)	
Key to Statistical codes relating to So	ocial Security Cases			
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement o	f Cause of Action	
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))		
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)		
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.		
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42		

CV-71 (05/08) CIVIL COVER SHEET Page 2 of 2